Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 24, page 4, and ending at line 7, page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

In the methods of the present invention, indazoles can be produced by taking the starting aromatic aldehyde and forming a nitroso aromatic aldehyde by the nitrosation of the aromatic aldehyde. This nitroso aromatic aldehyde can then be reacted with a reducing agent to form an indazole. This indazole can then be further reacted to form a desired indazole which is preferably enantiomerically pure and is preferably a pharmaceutically active product. The indazole forming from the reaction between the nitroso aromatic aldehyde and reducing agent can be reacted with a ~~sulfonic~~ sulfonyl hydride or anhydride to form a corresponding sulfonic ester. This sulfonic ester can be reacted with a metal azide to yield an azido indazole which in turn is reacted with a hydrogen source and a catalyst to yield an aminoalkyl indazole.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 13 and ending at line 23, page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

The aromatic aldehyde which is used in the methods of the present invention can be prepared by any number of reaction schemes. For instance, the aromatic aldehyde can be formed from reacting an indole with ozone in an organic solvent followed by addition of at least one reducing agent to form a formyl aromatic aldehyde. The formyl aromatic aldehyde can be reacted with a base or acid in the presence of water and/or an organic solvent to yield the starting aromatic aldehyde. Alternatively, the aromatic aldehyde can be formed by starting with a benzonitrile ~~fluorobenzonitrile~~ which is reacted with a reactant that permits the attachment of desired substituents on the benzonitrile. For instance, fluorobenzonitrile can be reacted with 1-amino-2

propanol in the presence of an organic solvent to yield the desired 2-(hydroxypropyl) aminobenzonitrile. The benzonitrile can then be reacted with a hydrogen source and a catalyst to form the desired aromatic aldehyde.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 11 and ending at line 22, page 17, with the following amended paragraph:

Preparation of *(R)*-4-Benzyloxy-2-(2-hydroxypropyl)aminobenzonitrile (*R*-5). A solution of (R)-(-)-1-amino-2-propanol (389 g, 5.19 mol) in DMSO ~~(600 mL)~~ (2.6 L) was added to a ~~solution~~ mixture of 4 (786 g, 3.46 mol), basic alumina (786 g), and 4A molecular sieves (131 g). The stirred mixture was heated at 110-140 °C for 24 h, cooled and filtered through Celite, washing with 10 L of 4:1 ether-ethyl acetate followed by 4 L of 3:2 ethyl acetate-hexane. The organic washes were extracted with water (5 L) and the aqueous phase was extracted with four 2-L portions of 25% ethyl acetate-hexane. The combined organic phases were washed with water and brine, dried over sodium sulfate, concentrated to about 4 L and allowed to stand for 48 h. The precipitated solid was collected by filtration, washed with hexane and vacuum dried to provide ***R*-5** (first crop 613 g, second crop, 86 g). The concentated supernatant was applied to a 5 kg silica gel pad and eluted with a gradient of 10-50% ethyl acetate-hexane to give, after concentration in vacuo, 119 g of **5**, for a total yield of 791 g (81%) of ***R*-5**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 8 and ending at line 23, page 18, with the following amended paragraph:

Preparation of *(R)*-6-benzyloxy-1-(2-hydroxypropyl)indazole (*R*-8). Sodium nitrite (209 g, 3.03 mol) was added over 25 min to a stirred solution of ***R*-6** (720 g, ~~0.2.53~~ 2.53 mol) in acetic

acid (5.6 L) and water (1.4 L), keeping the temperature below 25° C. The resulting solution of nitrosamine ***R*-7** was cooled in ice, and zinc dust (595 g, 9.10 mol) was added in 25-g portions over 3.5 h, keeping the temperature below 35°C. Ethyl acetate (7 L) was added and the thick suspension was filtered on a sintered glass funnel, washing with ethyl acetate (7.5 L). To the filtrate containing a 5:1 mixture of ***R*-8** and regenerated ***R*-6** was added Girard's Reagent T (98 g, 0.58 mol). After stirring at 25° C for 1 day, another 150 g (0.90 mol) of Girard's Reagent T was added. After 3 more days ***R*-6** was consumed. The mixture was extracted twice with water, with aqueous Na_2HPO_4 to remove acetic acid, with water and brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered through Florisil and concentrated. The residue was eluted through 5 kg of silica with1:1 ethyl acetate-hexane. Clean fractions were concentrated and 4 L of heptane was added to precipitate ***R*-8**. The solid was collected by filtration, washed with 1:1 ethyl acetate-hexane and vacuum dried at 35°C to yield (417 g, 58%) of a yellow solid, composed of 96.7% ***R*-8**, 0.3% ***S*-8** and 3% ***R*-6** by HPLC. Concentration of the supernatant afforded an additional 141 g (20%) of ***R*-8**.